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A HISTORY OF THE McCLELLAND FAMILY

Ву

Oella J. McCle-land

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by Oella J. IcClelland

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Thomas McClelland was born in Scotland, probably on or near the river Stirling, in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The derivation of the name is "son of a farmer." He was educated for the Presbyterian ministry but joined the Dissenters, as they were called. For this action he was forced to leave Scotland and went to Ireland. From there he sailed for America, the trip consuming about six weeks. While on board he became acquainted with a former soldier, a Frenchman named Timothy De Mar, and his daughter Jame (or Jeanne). The two young people fell in love wind were married by the captain of the vessel en route.

Thomas and his wife settled in Erie County, Pernsylvania.

At some time or other, just when I do not know, he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church but did not enter the ministry, probably on account of his marriage, as the salaries paid Methodist preachers, or circuit riders, as they were called, were very small, about thirty-five dollars, cash, in a whole year. He took up the trade of brick laying. However, he became a local preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The following is an extract from a "History of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America," by Abel Stevens L. L. D.:



"In 1798 a family by the name of Roberts settled in Chenango; about the same time two Irish local preachers, Jacob Gurwell
and Thomas "I'Clelland ('very respectable preachers*) began to
labor among the settlers, proclaiming the word in their cabins and
in the open air under trees. They formed a class this year, and
appointed a youth Robert R. Roberts, its leader: he thus became
the first leader of the first class in the Erie Conference and was
destined to become one of the most effective evangelists and bishops of the Church which had found him in these remote woods."

Jame McClelland bore thirteen children to Thomas, one of whom was named Robert. He married Mary Little, also anative of Pennsylvania, and their son, the youngest of nine children, named George Washington, was born in Brownstown, Pennsylvania (Now a portion of Pt tsburg). When George was very young the family removed to Wheeling, West Virginia. Robert carried on the trade of brick laying and taught his five sons the art. Some of them made it their life-work.

When the Civil War broke out, young George, who was a tall well grown boy of sixteen, succeeded in enlisting in the Union army by passing himself off as eighteen. He was assigned to the artillery division. He served for three years, during which time he was captured and conffined in the infamous Libby prison (or Belle Isle), in Richmond, Virginia, for a period of several months. He was released, presumably at the close of the war and made his way back to Wheeleng on foot, no transportation being available.

In the year 1848 Conrad Lang, a weaver by trade, together with his wife, Margaret Hoffman Lang, and their son, John, emigrated from Frankfort, Germany, and came to Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Six weeks thereafter a daughter was born to them, who was named Elizabeth (or Eliza). In about six years they also moved to Wheeling, West Virginia. Conrad Lang joined the Union *History of Methodism in the Erie Annual Conference, etc., by Sam-

*History of Methodism in the Erie Annual Conference, etc., by Samuel Gregg.





as a young man

army and was stationed as a guard at Clarksburg, West Virginia, where he died of pneumonia.

After the War George McClelland entered the ministry of the Methodist Eriscopal church. At about this time he married Elizabeth Larg and was assigned a charge at Pine Grove, West Virginia, where two children, Charles and Bertha, were born to them. He was later transferred to the Advance M. E. Church at Flatwoods, Greenup County, Kentucky. He left the miristry for personal reasons and went to Carter County, where he rursued various vocations, kept store, and taught school among other occupations. next child, Howard, was born at Willard, Ke tucky, Della and Clarence at Enterprise, Kentucky, and Frank at Grayson, Kentucky. In 1891 the oldest son, Charlie, accidentally killed himself while hunting. The family moved to Ashland in 1892. Bertha became a very popular teacher in the Ashland Public Schools system. married Edith Keeney in 1906. To this union were born four children, Frank, who married Opal Looney; Audrey who married James Harris; Zella, who married Ray Hamilton, and, later, Dean Hadley, and Edgar, who married Irene Wright. He entered World War II as a private and later attended Officers' Training School and was commissioned as a first lieutenant. Frank and Opal McClelland have a daughter, Markha Jane, who married Mike Becker. They have two children, a boy and a girl named Mike and Jane. Zella and Roy Hamilton have one daughter, Jacqueline, who is married to Robert Glancy. They have two daughters, Pamela and Nanette. Edgar and Irene McClelland have one daughter, Mickey.



George McClelland died in 1935, Elizabeth in 1942, Bertha, in 1949, and Howard, in 1958.

Oella was admitted to the bar in 1923 and is still practicing law. She served as court reporter for the Boyd Circuit Court four years and filled the office of the Justice of the Peace in Boyd County for ten years.

Frank was in the Ambulance Corps in World War I and spent seven months in France and a short time in England. While in the latter country he received a personal letter from King George, the original of which appears in the back of this history. While in France he nursed soldiers during the influenza epidemic of 1917-18 at Le Mans.

Ashland, Kentucky

February 27, 1961







WINDSOR CASTLE

Soldiers of the United States, the people of the British doles welcome you on your way to take your stand beside the stronies of many Nations now fighting in the Old World the great battle for human freedom.

The Ithies will gain new heart of spirit in your company. I mish that I could shake the hand of each one of your mission.

April 1918.













